# Key terms defined

*Core Team* - Group of co-project managers representing the decision making bodies for a site. Groups represented are those that have the power to say no to proposed actions. Generally speaking, the core team is comprised of the project managers from the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the state regulatory authority overseeing the environmental restoration program. The core team works together to plan, oversee, and interpret technical aspects of a project. Decisions and enforcement remain the sole province of the authorized regulatory body.

*Extended project team* - Composed of the DOE project team, EPA and State regulatory staff, and public interest groups (e.g., site-specific advisory boards). These individuals interact throughout a project and are responsible for providing input necessary for the core team to make decisions.

*Conceptual site model (CSM)* - A combination of text, source-pathway-receptor diagrams, and conceptual diagrams that together provide a qualitative understanding of the site. Serves as the hypothesis for the problems, likely response actions, and uncertainties.

*Problem* - A site condition posing real or potential unacceptable risk, or that the core team determines requires a response. Problems should be definable in terms of an environmental medium, geographic features, the types of waste present or suspected, or the type of waste units that exist.

*Uncertainty* - Parameter or condition for which a discrete value or state can not be determined with certainty and the range of possible values or states is sufficiently large to have a significant impact on the selection and efficacy of a design.

*Uncertainty management* - Approach to accommodating the reality that uncertainty is inherent in environmental response. Management is performed by balancing two alternative courses of action:

1) Reducing uncertainty by further characterizing the parameter or condition to narrow the range of possible values/states; and
2) Developing contingencies that counteract the impact of encountering values/states that cross a threshold value for the parameter/condition.

*Hierarchy of probable technologies* - A list of the technologies most likely selected for a response at a site ordered on the basis of most desirable first. The hierarchy is used to focus data collection efforts on parameters needed to evaluate the most likely response actions and to identify early in the process the alternatives that should be evaluated if the preferred technology is found to have a fatal flaw.

*Decision rule* - A concept used to document what constitutes sufficient information to make a decision. The rule is structured as an “IF, THEN” statement with the IF portion setting the conditions which if encountered will result in the action prescribed in the THEN portion.

*Contingency* - Action or plan of action designed to counteract the impact of conditions observed during implementation to deviate from those assumed as the basis for designing a response. Contingency responses become the primary response when monitoring indicates that conditions prevail which will prevent the designed response from meeting its objective. Contingencies are employed as a safety net so that implementation can proceed without having to characterize all site conditions to the point where they are known with certainty.

*Release site* - A site where there is or could be an uncontrolled or threatened release of a hazardous substance, hazardous constituent, or hazardous waste.

*Risk* - The current, potential, or perceived threat to human health and the environment posed by a site.

# Other relevant ER courses and references

- Other environmental restoration courses that complement this workshop include:

  - ✓ US DOE Subpart S Corrective Action - an introduction to the concepts and practices to follow when conducting RCRA corrective actions
  - ✓ US DOE Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Workshop - an orientation to CERCLA and introduction to implementing the RI/FS process at DOE sites
  - ✓ US DOE Risk Assessment Workshop - an introduction to human health and ecological risk assessment
  - ✓ US DOE Project Management Training - a three-week course on how to manage DOE projects, including environmental restoration projects
  - ✓ Principles of Environmental Restoration II: Design and Implementation - a two-day course on how to optimize CERCLA and RCRA environmental response actions (draft)

- Major policy references used in developing this course include:

  - ✓ SAFER: *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Guidance*, Module 7, DOE/EH-94007658
  - ✓ Presumptive Remedies and Generic Approaches: *Presumptive Remedies: Policies and Procedures*, EPA Directive 9355.0-47FS, September 1993
  - ✓ EPA Technical Impracticability Policy for Ground Water: *Guidance for Evaluating the Technical Impracticability of Ground Water Restoration*, OSWER Directive 9234.2-24, October 4, 1993
  - ✓ EPA Strategy on RCRA Corrective Action: *Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (61 FR 19432), May 1, 1996
  - ✓ Memorandum: *Managing the Corrective Action Program for Environmental Results: The RCRA Stabilization Effort*, October 25, 1991
  - ✓ Handbook: *Stabilization Technologies for RCRA Corrective Action*, EPA/625/6-91/026, August 1991
  - ✓ Proceedings: *RCRA Corrective Action Stabilization Technologies*, EPA/625/R-92/014
  - ✓ Fact Sheet: *Expediting Cleanup Through Identification of Likely Response Actions*, DOE/EH/(CERCLA) - XXX
  - ✓ Fact Sheet: *Expediting Cleanup Through Problem Identification and Definition*, DOE/EH/(CERCLA)- XXX
  - ✓ Fact Sheet: *Expediting Cleanup Through Use of a Project Team Approach*, DOE/EH/(CERCLA)- XXX, August 1997
  - ✓ Fact Sheet: *Uncertainty Management: Expediting Cleanup Through Contingency Planning*, DOE/EH/(CERCLA)-002, February 1997